AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

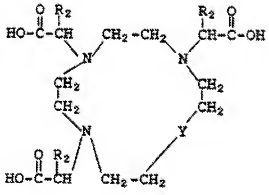
1-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A ~~contrast agent~~ composition for use in magnetic resonance, x-ray, ultrasound and radio-diagnostic imaging comprising:

a contrast agent of the formula

M(L)

where M is a metal ion and L is an organic ligand ~~comprising~~ of the formula



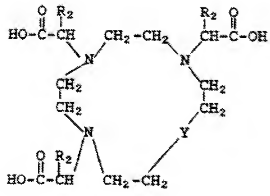
wherein

R_1 is hydroxypropyl and R_2 is ~~methyl~~ H; and

a complex salt excipient of the formula

$X_m[X'(L')]_n$

where X and X' are calcium; L' is



wherein

Y is  ,

R_1 is hydroxypropyl and R_2 is ~~methyl;~~ H;

m is 1 and n is 2.

10-14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 9 wherein L and L' are each 1~~, 4, 7, 10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7-triacetic acid,~~ 1,4,7-tris(carboxymethyl)-10-(2'-hydroxypropyl)-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane~~, N,N-bis[2-[bis(carboxymethyl)-amino]ethyl]glycine, DTPA-bis methylamide, 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic acid, DTPA-bis morpholinoamide and DTPA-bis-1,2-dihydroxypropylamide~~.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 9 wherein the mole ratio of said complex salt excipient to said contrast agent is between about 0.05 and 10 percent.

18. (Original) The composition of claim 9 wherein said metal ion is selected from paramagnetic metal atoms, lanthanide series elements, yttrium, and the transition series elements.

19. (Original) The composition of claim 18 wherein said paramagnetic metals are selected from gadolinium(III), dysprosium(III), manganese(II), manganese(III), chromium(III), iron(II) and iron(III).

20. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 9 wherein said metal ion M complexed with an organic ligand L is gadolinium(III) 1,4,7-tris(carboxymethyl)-10-(2'-hydroxypropy1)-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane and said excipient is calcium bis[1,4,7-tris(carboxy-methyl)-10-(2'-hydroxypropy1)-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecanatocalcium(II)].

21-46 (Canceled)